

In a previous life as a congressional staffer, I worked on legislation concerning the State Department Rewards Program offered for information leading to the arrest of individuals who lead terrorist attacks against Americans and American targets. This has been a very successful program, one until recently, where up to \$1 million was offered for the apprehension of these international criminals. Mr. Kansi that led the attack against people outside the CIA was one of the criminals caught by this program.

We had to update this program 2 years ago because the awards offered had become outdated and, in legislation lead by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) of the Committee on International Relations, we raised that amount to \$5 million. The program has grown and it has led to things like this.

After the Africa embassy bombings, the State Department was able to produce posters like this, and I want to publicize today that under current U.S. law and authorities available, there is a \$5 million reward offered for the arrest of Osama bin Laden for a previous terrorist attack against U.S. embassies in Africa. These rewards are offered up to \$5 million for attackers against American embassies, bases, and American individuals, and for the arrest of United Nations war criminals. I will say in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia, over two dozen war criminals have been apprehended, including now the most famous, the former Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic.

At the end of this day today, we will be offering legislation to increase the reward amount for terrorists that lead attacks against Americans to \$25 million, and we will authorize up to \$50 million in the rewards account. We need to offer additional funds because of the changing enemy we face. Probably for the first time in our history, we now know that many of the enemies we face are very wealthy individuals. It is also likely that they have the backing of governments, and higher awards are needed to spark the imagination of the public and press in other countries.

I want to commend the leaders of this effort that have already agreed to join us, such as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), a real leader in catching war criminals and for the arrest of people who lead terrorist attacks against individuals. I also want to thank Chairman Smith who oversees the State Department accounts and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and many others who have agreed to sign on to this legislation. For other Members interested in signing on, we will be leaving the books open for original cosponsors until the close of business today.

I think this is one of the many aspects of the battle that we are yet to face, but with an increased awards account, I think we can show everyone the seriousness of our effort and help

energize the investigation which is now ongoing.

NATIONAL DAY OF UNITY AND PRAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we join the President of the United States in a national day of unity and prayer. I was moved by his citing of the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt expressing the fact that warm courage exhibits national unity.

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I want to offer in particular today a moment of appreciation and thanks to our fellow colleagues from New York and the Washington and Virginia area, and, of course, in Pennsylvania.

Our eyes have been riveted on the good citizens of New York, the valor that they have shown, the spirit of comfort and unity that they have given to each other. Might I add that the Congress stands with them, behind them, and alongside of them.

Might I also say to the fallen men and women, the emergency workers, police and fire, coming from Houston, Texas, let me say to them on behalf of all of our citizens and the State of Texas, we mourn with them and we celebrate the lives of those who gave their lives.

But I come today to discuss very briefly another loss, another constituency of loss; that is, our children, the children of those fallen, either in the tragedy of their parent or a guardian being on those terrible planes, civilian airplanes being used as weapons, or those fallen in the World Trade Building.

We realize, along with our military personnel, that they are part of families and they are loved. I believe it is important as we debate today the resolution to go forward and to assist the President and consult with the President on how we will address these terrorist acts, let us not forget our children.

At the end of the day, I expect to offer and file a resolution that will help and encourage to expedite any benefits that are due and owing to children who have lost a guardian, a parent, or parents.

I am reminded of a story told by one of my staffers from New York. His sister attends a school just a few blocks away from the World Trade Buildings. I still believe that those buildings stand in spirit. She acknowledged to him that one of the youngsters that was her classmate saw two parents go off to work that morning, and has yet to see them as of today.

There will be many stories like that. Many of our children will need someone other than the parent or guardian to love them and to nourish them. Let us not have bureaucracy stand in the

way of providing these children with their immediate needs, the monetary needs, as we embrace them to provide the nurturing needs, the medical assistance, the foster care assistance, the psychological needs. Let us wash away the entanglement of red tape, work with our State and local agencies, and push forward the needs of our children.

This concurrent resolution will have the Congress on record that we are prioritizing our children and expediting their needs. I would ask my colleagues to join me. This is already a bipartisan resolution, and I thank those who have agreed to work with me, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), and many others I would hope will join us in ensuring that we move forward on behalf of our children.

I close by simply saying that we will soon engage this Congress in a very important debate on how we proceed, whether in war or conflict. We must do it in a rational and a firm way with the facts. We must lead this country in a way that exhibits our valor and our courage so that we adhere to better angels and higher angels, and that in fact, that we believe in our freedom in a way that encourages peace and deliberation.

Yes, we will give retribution, but we will be firm and factual and studied. We will do it together, the President in consultation with Congress.

TERRORIST BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have been quiet about what has happened this week, but many of us also feel the need to speak. What I say is not in the mold of reviewing it or condemning anything that has happened, but I just want to express some personal feelings about it and also a few opinions.

I will not revel in self-misery, although it is tempting to do so, but at least I want to share my experience with my colleagues and the American people.

Tuesday morning, as I was listening to the morning news, I heard about the airplane hitting the first tower. It was described as a two-engine plane, and since I am a former pilot, I assumed it was some amateur who had gotten off course, or some kook who was trying to do some damage with a small twin-engine plane.

I immediately turned on the television just in time to see the second plane approach, and immediately I knew it was terrorism, because it was obviously a large commercial airliner, and no large commercial airliner would be off course or score a direct hit in clear weather such as that.